



Year 6 Spring Term Update

A Message from the Class Teachers

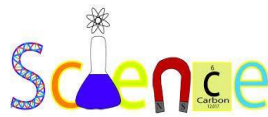
We are proud of the service, leadership and kindness that we see in Year 6. The children are terrific role models for our younger pupils. Year 6 Welcome to the Spring Term where we are anticipating a busy time, with a number of educational visits to be fitted in in addition to our usual curriculum. Sats Companion continues to be used for English and Maths homework alongside EdShed spelling. We set tasks on Wednesday to be completed by the following Tuesday at 8pm. Sats Companion is also a very useful SATs revision tool for independent work - look in the "Practise" area for a bank of questions. Year 6 are very proficient at using Accelerated Reader to quiz the books they have read. The website estimates the number of minutes read. Twenty or more minutes of reading a day is the aim.



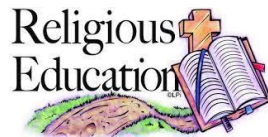
We are using the novel *The Nowhere Emporium* by Ross McKenzie as a starting point for writing a short story. This prize winning magical adventure moves through time and shifts to cities around the globe. Then we will read some short stories from Phillip Pullman's *Grimm Tales* and create our own Fairy Story with a Twist. Pullman, a national treasure, has retold these timeless tales in his unique and brilliant voice. Our next novel will be *The Queen's Fool* by Ally Sherrick; it is a rip-roaring historical adventure. We will be inspired by this Tudor tale to develop our writing skills with a recount diary and a formal letter. Each Wednesday we are completing a spelling dictation test using the word list from EdShed that has just been practised for homework. We will continue to spend a few minutes in every English lesson practising joined handwriting and grammar skills.



This term the focus is on decimals and percentages. Year 6 will work on numbers to 3 decimal places. We will discover the links between decimals, percentages and fractions. Alongside this, ratio and algebra will be introduced. In measurement we will learn about the area, perimeter and volume of shapes. We will explore statistics and work on line graphs, mean and reading and interpreting pie charts. The emphasis in all our maths will be reasoning, making connections and explaining when we tackle problems. We are checking that the children know all the multiplication tables from the 2s to the 12s.



During the Spring term, we will be studying the topic of Animals Including Humans in which we will look at the human circulatory system. This will be complemented by a trip to the Centre for Life in Newcastle. We will investigate the effects of exercise on the heart rate and collect and analyse data. We will use this data to create graphs and draw conclusions, suggesting how we might improve results to ensure validity and reliability. Later on in the term, we will be exploring the topic of Evolution and Inheritance. We will research and explain how some animals have adapted and evolved according to the environment in which they live and the availability of their food sources.



Our first topic, 'People of God' poses the question, 'How does following God bring freedom and justice. We will explore the story of Moses and reflect upon its relevance in today's world. Next, we will move onto the topic of 'Incarnation' and the question, 'Was Jesus the Messiah?' Within this we will consider and compare a range of worldviews.



This term, we are beginning our study of the First World War. Our work in lessons will aim to answer the question: Was World War I really so 'great'? This unit allows the children to study an aspect of British history that profoundly affected the lives of people around the world. We will consider the chronology of the war and complete in-depth studies of trench life and the technological advancements that occurred during this time. This will be largely achieved through the study of historical sources and artefacts.



Year 6 will learn about our ever changing and dynamic **coasts**. Pupils will consider the role of erosion and deposition in forming coastal features. The children will explore the reasons coasts are attractive for people to live and visit. We will study plastic pollution in the ocean habitat and consider its impact on the planet. The children will develop their oracy skills by creating a presentation to present to their peers.



This term, in music, we will be continuing to look at a variety of songs from different genres. We will be keeping a focus on performance - continuing to hone skills of ensemble performance using voice and glockenspiel. We will also be increasing our focus on composition and improvisation. We will continue to look at notation using songs such as, "Roll Alabama", "Simple Gifts" and "La Bamba". As with the previous term our studies will culminate in a class performance to showcase our skills.



This term in art, our final piece will be a sculpture. We will be inspired by Wassily Kandinski and Claes Oldenburg. The children will make a 3D slice of cake out of card and then will papier mâché over the card. To complete the piece of art, the children will paint their design using painting skills learned last term.



We're getting towards the end of our main challenge in Y6, with children having designed and being most of the way through making their own games. The next steps will involve analysing others' work with a kind but critical eye and responding to advice given by others. After this, we'll give our ICT skills a test by advertising our games, culminating in designing our own website. Exciting times.



Gymnastics - the children will be working together to create routines involving balances, travelling and jumping.

Net and wall games - the children will be applying their previous knowledge of net and wall games to badminton. They will refine their skills and use these in games scenarios.

French

In French this term we will continue to use our online resource, "Languagenut". We will be building on previously studied phonetic knowledge and will be particularly focussing on being able to express opinions in French. Lessons will focus on listening and understanding, reading, speaking and writing.



This term in Design and Technology, we are working on structures. We will be designing, making and evaluating a model air raid shelter which could have been used to protect civilians in World War One. We will look at how frame structures are used in a range of monumental buildings to create strength and then deepen our understanding by learning about triangulation and trusses. We will be learning how to saw wood safely and honing our measuring skills. We will use this knowledge and these skills to design and make our shelters before presenting them, using our oracy skills, to the then prime minister, Lloyd George.



We will complete two further puzzle pieces from our Jigsaw Curriculum this Spring term. The first being 'Dreams and Goals'. In this Puzzle, the children share their own strengths and further stretch themselves by setting challenging and realistic goals. They discuss the learning steps they will need to take as well as talking about how to stay motivated. The children reflect on various global issues and explore places where people may be suffering or living in difficult situations; whilst doing this, they reflect on their own emotions linked to this learning. The children also discover what they think their classmates like and admire about them, as well as working on giving others praise and compliments.

Another piece that we will look at is 'Healthy Me'. In this Puzzle, the children discuss taking responsibility for their own physical and emotional health and the choices linked to this. They learn about different types of drugs and the effects these can have on people's bodies. The children learn about exploitation as well as gang culture and the associated risks therein. They also learn about mental health/illness and that people have different attitudes towards this. They learn to recognise the triggers for and feelings of being stressed and that there are strategies they can use when they are feeling stressed.

If you have any concerns, then please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Year 6 team.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Lake, Mr Winn and Mrs Hughes